

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Ghana

**Post:** Accra

### **Regional Ag Developments - Ghana Gist - April and May 2019**

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

The Ghana Gist is a monthly roundup of local and regional developments relevant to U.S. food and agricultural trade covering Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Highlights in the April/May 2019 edition include a focus on the cocoa and tree crop sector in Ghana and the region, destruction of a rice shipment at the Port of Abidjan, and regional seafood production and trade.

# **The Ghana Gist**

April/May 2019

*Disclaimer: This monthly update provides a summary of the region's fast-changing agricultural trade landscape through information gained from field travel, various media sources, host-country contacts, and analysis of agricultural trends. Links are provided where appropriate. Inclusion in this report does not reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. government agency's point of view or policy.*

## **GHANA:**

**LAUNCH OF CASH CROP EXPORT PROGRAM:** Ghana recently launched its Planting for Exports and Rural Development (PERD) program. Under the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) program, which focuses more on staple crops, PERD specifically targets the export of tree crops, primarily cashew, coffee, oil palm, coconut, mango, and rubber. Beyond being the world's second largest cocoa producer, Ghana seeks to expand its agricultural exports, as well as the local value addition to those exports. A bill to create a national Tree Crop Development Board is currently before Parliament for consideration. ([Ghana News Agency](#), [Modern Ghana](#))

**U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GHANA VISITS CARGILL COCOA FACILITY:** FAS Accra recently accompanied U.S. Ambassador Stephanie Sullivan to Cargill's Ghana-based cocoa facility. The U.S. agribusiness is a leader in promoting sustainable cocoa development in the country. Annually, it processes about 75,000 metric tons (MT) of cocoa beans into intermediate products at its Ghana facility, also exporting a large portion of the national crop in raw bean form. Ghana's premium cocoa beans consistently rank as some of the highest quality on the world market.



**GHANA COCOA PRODUCTION REVISED DOWNWARD:** Ghana reduced its production forecast by 6 percent in the current year due to plant disease issues, down to 850,000 MT. As the second largest producer behind Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana supplies nearly a fifth of global cocoa supply. While PFJ-related initiatives claim Ghana could produce over one million tons of cocoa beans annually, the industry faces numerous challenges in boosting production. ([Pulse](#), [GhanaWeb](#))

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

**RICE SHIPMENT DESTROYED DUE TO QUALITY CONCERNS:** Authorities confiscated and destroyed an 18,000 MT shipment of milled rice from Myanmar deemed unfit for consumption. The importers involved in the shipment received a 12-month ban from importing rice into the country. The rice reportedly landed at several other West African ports prior to arriving in Abidjan. Côte d'Ivoire is one of the world's top rice importers ([Bloomberg](#), [Commodafrica](#)). For further information on the country's rice sector, FAS Accra recently published its Annual Rice Report for Côte d'Ivoire (available [here](#)).

### **USDA FUNDED COCOA PROJECT PARTNERS WITH SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTOR:**

USDA's Food for Progress project in the Côte d'Ivoire cocoa sector, implemented by Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA), recently signed an MOU with OikoCredit. The partnership is designed to increase the availability of financial services to cocoa producers under CNFA's Maximizing Opportunities in Cocoa Activity (MOCA) project. A three-year project, MOCA seeks to boost the productivity and efficiency of cocoa producers to expand trade, improve quality, and increase farmer income. ([Confectionery News](#))

## LIBERIA / SIERRA LEONE / TOGO:

**FISHING SECTOR IN SIERRA LEONE FACING CHALLENGES:** Overfishing, a common theme across West Africa, recently became more apparent on the Sierra Leone market as local fish prices surged. The cost of fish for consumers in Freetown increased between 60 to 100 percent recently. As a one month closed season for industrial fishing concludes, the inability of authorities to fully police waters and continued prevalence of illegal fishing complicates efforts to preserve fish stocks ([Sierra Leone Telegraph](#), [DW](#)). Ghana is also set to experiment this year with brief closed seasons for both its small scale and industrial fleets, as its fish stocks are also in steep decline.

**TOGO'S ECONOMY PERFORMING WELL DESPITE RECENT TURMOIL:** Following a review of Togo's three-year, \$241 million Extended Credit Facility (ECF), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported the country's GDP grew 4.9% in 2018, after shrinking to 4.4% in 2017 due to sociopolitical crises. GDP growth is expected to reach 5.5% in 2019, driven largely by mining and agricultural exports. ([IMF](#))

## REGIONAL:

**WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH TOPS GLOBAL PROJECTIONS:** In addition to Togo's sustained growth, other countries in the region continue to top global growth forecasts. The IMF projects Ghana's 2019 GDP growth at 8.8%, the world's highest. Meanwhile, Côte d'Ivoire continues to experience robust and sustained growth, projected at over 7% in 2019 and beyond. ([Bloomberg](#))

**SEAFOOD SALES TO WEST AFRICA:** Interest is growing among multinational seafood suppliers in the West African market. While Nigeria is the largest market in the region, potential for commercial sales in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are also the subject of increased interest. Industry projects the continent to become a major purchaser in the coming years as local fishery supplies struggle to cope

with demand ([Undercurrent](#)). FAS Accra recently published a Ghana Fish and Seafood Report (available [here](#)).

**Upcoming Agriculture/Trade Events:**

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
July 29-August 2	7th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture	Accra, Ghana
August 4-6	18th Annual African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
August 19-20	The Food Summit and Exhibition	Accra, Ghana
September 23-24	Accra Food/Wine Festival	Accra, Ghana
October 5-9	Ivorian Buyers Delegation to ANUGA Trade Fair	Cologne, Germany
October 25-November 3	International Exhibition of Cotton, Textile, Clothing and Accessories (SICTHA)	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
November 11-22	Agriculture and Animal Resources Exhibition (SARA)	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
November 12-15	5th West African Organic Agriculture Conference (WAOC)	Accra, Ghana
November 19-21	6th Annual AgroFood West Africa Trade Show	Accra, Ghana